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ca wherein the one or more arrays of orifices formed in said innermost tube establish a substantially uniform backing pressure along substantially the length of the innermost tube, thereby promoting substantially uniform delivery of the gas out of the orifices in the outermost tube and along substantially the length of the outermost tube over a range of operating conditions.

Please cancel Claim 7.

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated December 11, 2001.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation of claim 7 and the further limitations that the tubes have two ends and one end of the innermost tube is capped. Claim 7 has therefore been cancelled. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the specification, for example, at lines 24-25 of page 6. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments do not constitute new matter.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami Soichiro (JP61-37969). Applicant traverses this rejection and submits that the amended claims are patentable over Soichiro.

Soichiro teaches "a pipe 5" in the last paragraph of page 6. In the apparatus of Soichiro, pipe 5 "opens into a tube 63" which is "horizontally oriented." The other end of pipe 5 "is connected to a source for supplying an active reactive gas." Soichiro does not teach arrays of holes formed in either the pipe 5 or the tube 63. Furthermore, Fig. 1, for example, shows pipe 5 and tube 63 with solid walls that do not include orifices. Instead, "the two ends" of tube 63 "open into a buffer 20" to provide gas to the additional buffer zones of the apparatus. The addition of orifices along the length of the pipe 5 would in fact likely compromise the proper operation of the Soichiro apparatus. Applicant notes that in Fig. 1 there is shown an enclosed, sealed annular volume between the interior of the pipe 5 and the innermost buffer 20. In contrast, amended claim 1 of the present invention recites that the innermost tube is capped at one end and further recites "one or more arrays of orifices formed" in the innermost tube. The pipe 5 in the Soichiro